

Ionia County Board of Commissioners  
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting  
June 19, 2012  
\*amended\*  
4:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Mason, Lower, Tiejema, Banks, Calley and Shattuck  
Members absent: Vroman

Others present: Scott Wirtz, Cheryl O'Connor, Lisa McCafferty, Kami Smith, Tim McGuire, Chad Murphy, Diane Adams, Walter Barnes, Barbara Trierweiler, Dwain Dennis, Ron Schafer, Suzanne Kreeger, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

### Approval of Agenda

A. Consideration of additional items

1. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Lower, to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion carried by voice vote.

### Public Comment

The Chair opened up the Public Comment period. Candidates for County Commissioner District 5, Chad Murphy and Scott Wirtz, introduced themselves.

### New Business

- A. Tim McGuire, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Counties and Kami Smith, updated the Board on the Association and explained how the Association is putting together more resources and making those resources available to the counties. Chair Shattuck thanked McGuire and his staff for the help that that the Association has been to the County.
- B. Diane Adams, Register of Deeds, updated the Board on how her office is handling the transfer tax collection for *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac* documents. Adams stated that *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac* were claiming tax exemptions on deeds maintaining they were a government entity. Oakland and Genesee Counties challenged their exemption in court and the court found that *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac* were not a government entity and ordered them to pay back the money. *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac* are continuing to send in documents with the exemption status. The Register of Deed Offices' have received a directive from the Michigan Treasury to collect the transfer tax even if the documents are showing the exempt status. *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac* are challenging the court's decision and until the appeal is resolved, Adams

stated her office will collect the tax and place it into a separate account. If the appeal is successful, the County will return the collected funds back to *Fannie Mae* and *Freddie Mac*.

C. Departmental Reports

1. Public Health - Lisa McCafferty, Public Health Officer, gave an update on the Health Department. McCafferty recognized Cub Scout Pack #3187 and thanked the Pack for the construction of a covered bridge style cat house at the shelter, as well as, leashes they made for the dogs. In other topics, McCafferty gave an update on meth use in the County and the Vision Bus. (A copy of the Agency Report for June 19, 2012 Board of Health meeting is on file in the Clerk's Office).
2. Equalization Department - Cheryl O'Connor, Equalization Director, gave a report to the Board on her office, and further discussed the tax tribunal, staffing and street addressing issues. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
3. Information Technology - Walter Barnes, Information Technician, updated the board on the security cameras that are being installed in the county buildings. Other discussions included computer upgrades. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
4. Sheriff's Department - Dwain Dennis, Sheriff, stated the jail is continuing to house inmates from other counties. Other items discussed were the purchase of a new stove for the jail and the new fireworks law.
5. Prosecutor's Office - Ron Schafer, Prosecuting Attorney, stated his office has been working on several high profile cases, giving a brief overview of each of the cases. Schafer stated that the assistant prosecutors, staff and assistants have done a wonderful job with the preparations and research for these cases. Other items of discussion concerned a canine advocacy program, where a dog would be housed in the crime victims' office that would help put the victims/minors at ease.
6. County Clerk's Office - Tonda Rich, County Clerk, gave updates on the staff and stated that Ionia County went live last month on the Electronic Death Certificate Reporting Program and her office can now accept death certificates through this program. Other updates included the upcoming precinct inspector trainings.
7. Circuit Court - Circuit Court Judge, Suzanne Kreeger, stated that in the upcoming budget process for the county, she is going to ask the commissioners to make some tough decisions and one of those decisions is making the bailiff position a full time position. In other updates, Judge Kreeger discussed the mediation program and specialty courts.

## Reports

Commissioner Lower stated he will be presenting a Resolution to the Board asking the county to commit to flying only American flags that are made in the United States.

Commissioner Tiejema commented on the Michigan Works Program/Consortium concerning the success stories of their participants.

Commissioner Calley stated that Community Mental Health has started doing Committee-of-the-Whole meetings.

### County Administrator's report

- 1) Budget meetings are being scheduled with department heads.
- 2) The Ionia County Economic Alliance, in conjunction with Ionia County, will be filming a video of Ionia County to promote the businesses.

Commissioner Lower gave an update on the Long Lake Board.

Moved by Lower, supported by Mason, to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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Jack Shattuck, Chair

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Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on:

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